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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**FORMER VA EMPLOYEE PLEADS GUILTY TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION  
FRAUD CHARGES**

Ronald E. Wilson, Special Agent in Charge, VA Office of Inspector General, Southeast Field Office, Bay Pines, Florida, announced today that Johnnie Mae Cohen, a former VA employee, pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court to one felony count of Theft of Public Money. Cohen made false claims and false statements to the Department of Labor (DOL) and Office of Workers' Compensation Program. This fraud enabled her to receive workers' compensation benefits from DOL totaling approximately \$138,234 to which she was not entitled. Cohen falsely reported to DOL that she had no employment and no earned income. The investigation revealed that she was working.

Wilson stated that the prosecution of Cohen was a result of an investigation by the VA Office of Inspector General, Nashville Resident Agency and the DOL Office of Inspector General.

Rae Oliver, Assistant United States Attorney, Western District of Tennessee at Memphis, handled the prosecution of this matter. Sentencing in this case is pending.